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CIA's Bush Rejects Questions on Recovery of Soviet Submarine

From Times Wire Services

SACRAMENTO—CIA Director George Bush brushed aside questions Monday on a report the Howard Hughes-built ship Glomar Explorer recovered an entire Soviet submarine from the Pacific Ocean floor off Hawaii in 1974.

Asked by reporters about a Time magazine report that the CIA, employing the Glomar Explorer, actually salvaged all the submarine despite public statements to the contrary, Bush replied:

"Absolutely no comment whatsoever. You're wasting your time and my time talking about it."

A written question on the same subject was asked later at a luncheon of businessmen. Bush said, "Throw those (questions) away. I'm not going to comment."

The CIA has maintained that during the secret recovery operation the sub broke in two and the stern section was lost.

Meanwhile, Reuters news agency quoted "government sources" as

confirming the Time magazine report.

Initial reports last year of U.S. recovery attempts said the Glomar Explorer, a deep-sea recovery vessel fitted with highly sophisticated equipment, was able only to haul up the front of the submarine.

Those reports said the rear part of the sub, which housed its weapons and code room, was not recovered.

Monday, however, Reuters said government sources confirmed that the entire submarine, with its missiles, torpedoes and nuclear warheads, was recovered by the 36,000-ton Glomar Explorer.

The U.S. Navy declined comment on the report that the Golf 2 class sub had been recovered.

The sources, insisting the Time report was accurate, said the 5,500-ton, 320-foot submarine, which sank in 16,000 feet of water in 1968, had been pulled out intact in the summer of 1974.